



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Water Polo Leadership Group Meeting
17TH November 2021

Present	Dean Walker (DW)	Manager
	Ian Mackenzie (IM)	ROC Representative
	Chris Cawood (CC)	Suffolk Coastal Torpedoes Rep
	Toni Fenton (TF)	Substitute for Hitchin SC
	Simon Lecomber (SL)	Colchester SC
	Thomas Mills (TM)	Teamipswich Swimming
	Peter Mole (PM)	Hatfield SC
	Simon Steele (SS)	Bedford WPC

Also present Emma Winter, Regional Administrator (EW)

21/22 **Apologies**

- 21/22.1 Apologies were received from Gemma Clare (City of Cambridge WPC Rep), Anna Leeson (Cambridge Uni), Jon Lowy (Hertford SC) and Jackie Spinks (Hitchin SC).
- 21/22.2 Toni Fenton (TF) attended as a substitute for Hitchin SC.

21/23 **Declarations of conflict of interest**

- 21/23.1 There were none.

21/24 **Previous minutes**

- 21/23.1 No previous minutes were provided from the July Meeting.

21/25 **Matters arising**

- 21/25.1 There were none.

21/26 **2022 Budget and Plan**

- 21/26.1 DW explained to the Group that over the last 18 months the region has had significantly reduced income. Income has come from mainly membership fees.
- 21/26.2 All Groups are working on a break even budget and we have done our best to do so, however IM has confirmed that the region will be covering the entry fees for 2021 only.

- 21/26.3 DW shared the plan with the Group. He reiterated to the Group that discussions have been taking place prior to the meeting the detail. In order to get the budget as accurate as possible travel costs needs to be worked out in advance.
- 21/26.4 DW states that as a group we will try to meet at least 3 times a year, sometimes more if things arise or we need to get something changes. If we need to vary the plan, we need to go the Board for approval. The budget is broken down month by month and events are allocated to a certain month.
- 21/26.5 The Water polo manager informed the group all bookings must be made through regional staff to ensure appropriate sign off.
- 21/27 County Competition**
- 21/27.1 A few coaches around the region have highlighted a demand for a county level competition, due to many schools offering bursaries at this level. By offering a county level competition the region can support this process.
- 21/28 Inter Regionals**
- The inter-county competition was discussed by the group and the Water Polo manager is investigating venues, it is likely to take place in early February.
- 21/28.1 The question was put to IM if the inter-regionals age groups were planned to change. IM clarified the age groups were currently go to stay the same. It was clarified to the Group that the inter-regionals in 2022 will need to break even which needs to include the entry cost.
- 21/29 Regional Academy**
- 21/29.1 The Group discussed venues for training and it was agreed that training would take place generally in areas with more U14 players, although effort will be made to host around the region. Whilst Swim England recommend a Friday evening the Group agreed that a weekend day would be better for the players as traveling after work and school is providing to be tricky.
- 21/29.2 The plan includes regional academy training on a monthly basis excluding the summer and Christmas. The dates will work around the competition calendar as much as possible and will be for age group players.
- 21/30 Miscellaneous**
- 21/30.1 The Group agreed that the state of the regional Water polo hats is poor and that a submission of £500 for new hats be include in the 2022 budget.
- 21/31 New competition**
- 21/31.1 The traditional Grand Prix competition will be a new style competition with individual entries in 2022, to allow for a more varied standard compete as well as allowing smaller clubs to take part. The Group support this decision. If successful, this can be extended to more age groups. There is also an option the host an outdoor version.



21/32

Development Days

21/32.1 DW proposed 3 development days as part of the plan. The first happening in January on line and the next two in person at Chelmsford due to the facilities provided. These days will include classroom setting, officials development and pool work

21/33

Membership figures

21/33.1 IM requested for each club in the region to submit their membership numbers for each age group 9 to 15 years, so that we've got a real idea on what Water Polo is doing in the region. This will also help decide what training venues will be used in 2022.

(ACTION REQUIRED) FOR ALL CLUBS TO SUBMIT THEIR MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS FOR EACH AGE GROUP FROM 9-15 YEARS TO IM).

21/33.2 Everyone was encouraged to ensure that the membership returns to Swim England included ticking the Water Polo box for our members.

21/34

Any other business

21/34.1 TF asked for clarification on the U16 fees for the Inter-Regionals and DW confirmed that it was being looked at by regional staff.